

Appl. No. 09/720,230
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 17 February 2004

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2-44 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is canceled herein, and claims 24-44 are newly added. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$223 is attached. (43 total claims, less 3 claims over 20 previously paid = 20 new claims over 20 @\$9 each, and 1 independent claim over 3 @\$43 each).

The applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings in the specification. However, the applicant respectfully declines to add section headings, as they are not required in accordance with MPEP 608.01(a).

Claims 2, 5, 6, and 13 are rewritten herein in independent form. These claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

Dependent claims 3-4, 7, 9, 16-20 and 22-23 are amended to be dependent upon claim 2; no new matter is added.

New dependent claims 24-44 are added to at least partially restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

The Office action indicates that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 5, 6, and 13 are correspondingly amended herein.

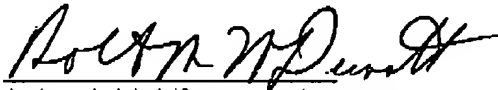
Each of the dependent claims 3-4, 7-12, and 14-44 are dependent upon either claim 2 or claim 13. Because claims 2 and 13 have been determined to be allowable, these dependent claims are correspondingly allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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